

REMARKS

Claims 12-26 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 12 is amended.

Reconsideration based on the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. The Claims Satisfy the Requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph


The May 14, 2003 Office Action rejects claims 12-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, asserting that the specification does not reasonably provide enablement for exposing the barrier layer until exposing the surface of the interdielectric layer by chemical mechanical polishing. Claim 12 is amended to obviate the rejection. Specifically, claim 12 is amended to recite a step of “exposing at least a portion of the barrier layer by chemical mechanical polishing...”. Support for this claimed step can be found in the specification at, for example, page 7, lines 6-10.

Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that all pending claims 12-26 are in condition for allowance.

Prompt and favorable examination is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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